

# LET'S EXPLORE—

# Lower Middlesex

*'Manalapan' Region,  
Admired by Indians,  
Provides Route with  
a Variety of Scenery*

BY JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

"GOOD country producing good bread" was the way the Indians summed up the region between what are now New Brunswick and Englishtown. Today's tour through that good country offers a variety of little lakes and ponds, some historic old buildings, several close views of New Jersey Turnpike construction and many pleasant back roads.

The traffic light on U. S. 1 just north of Milltown is the taking-off point. The inset map suggests ways of reaching it through New Brunswick. Riva avenue in Milltown, about two-thirds of a mile from the Route 1 light, is marked by a stone retaining wall. Turn right and continue all the way to the end of Farrington Lake, one of the state's most unusual lakes because of its five-mile length and its narrow width. Turn left at the end of the lake, cross the turnpike and then swing right at the "T" intersection.

A LARGE "Slow" sign signals the left turn for Jamesburg at Rhode Hall corner, once the site of a famous inn on the Cranbury-South River stage coach route. In Jamesburg, stay east of the railroad tracks past the pretty falls of Manalapan Lake, and the way to Englishtown is straight ahead, through fields of waving grain.

Englishtown is one of those places where lovers of history stop to walk around. Focal point for sightseers is the Village Inn, established in 1732. Continental officers held their council of war at the inn on June 27, 1778, the night before the Battle of Monmouth.

Eastward lies Freehold and the Shore, but today's tour turns left at the traffic light in front of the inn, and heads north. Slightly more than two miles north of the light turn left on the macadam road, then stay right at the next crossroad for Spotswood. Long ago the center of a thriving bog iron industry and later prosperous because of its snuff mill, Spotswood today draws many visitors to beautiful old St. Peter's Church.

TURN left in Spotswood's Main street in front of the church, keep right on Snow Hill road at the triangle, then stay right on the concrete (Brunswick avenue). The road comes to a "T" intersection, where a left turn is made. Ahead, after going through several crossroads, is Route 1. To regain the safe crossing of Route 1 at the starting traffic light, take the next road left after crossing the turnpike. This carries into Milltown, where a right turn is made on Main street at the attractive lake and the mills which gave the town its name.



Staff photos by Dorer.

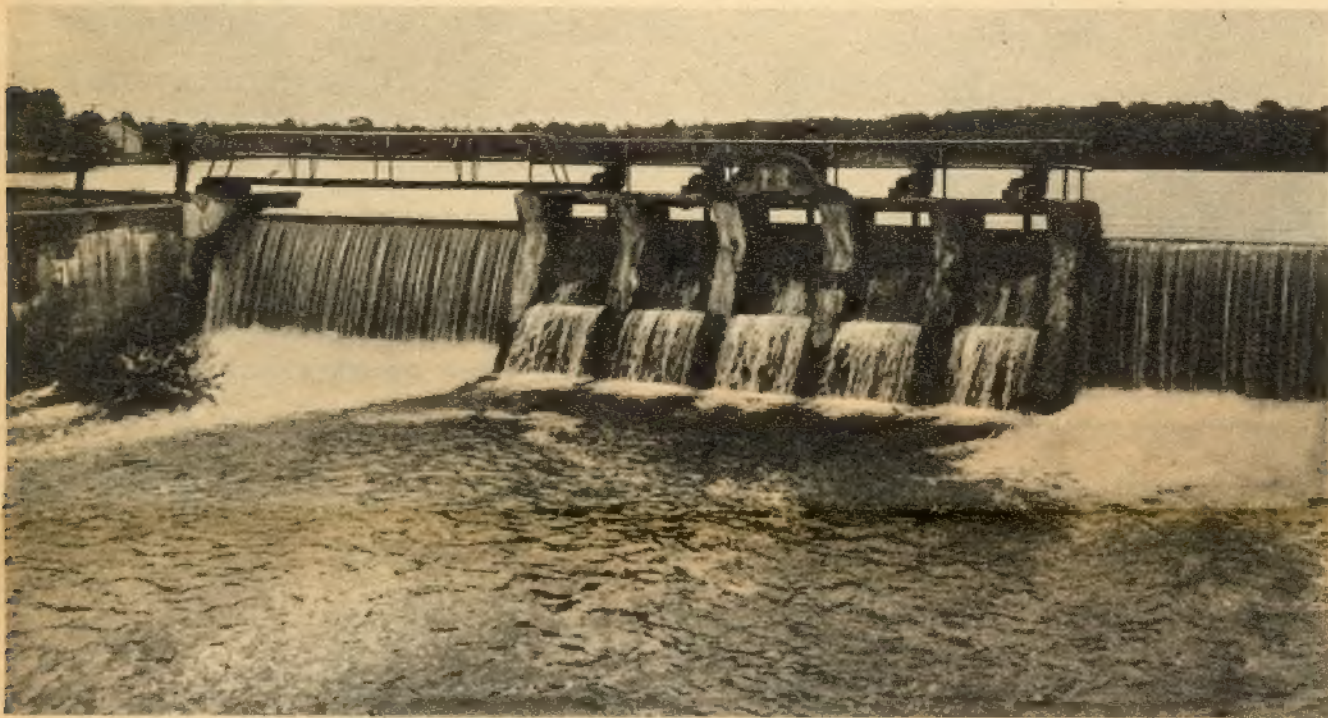


Rolling farm country visible to passing motorist between Jamesburg and Englishtown is excellent for dairy pastureland as well as grain growing.





De Voe Pond in Spotswood, named for one of town's oldest families, formerly proprietors of snuff mill which was once town's leading industry.



Where Manalapan Brook at Jamesburg is dammed to form Manalapan Lake. Use of Manalapan Brook for waterpower in this town dates back to the 18th Century.



Englishtown's Village Inn, established in 1732. It was here that officers of Revolutionary Army met in June, 1778, to discuss Battle of Monmouth plans.

(Other pictures on following page)



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## LOWER MIDDLESEX

(Continued from preceding page)



Lawrence Brook widens near Milltown to form a small lake and an excellent fishing spot. It is one of attractive views on trip's last section.



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Century-old St. Peter's Church in Spotswood replaces earlier churches dating back to 1756.